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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed April 7, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the foregoing amendment, the specification and various claims have been amended. Claims 1, 6, and 14 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file any number of continuation applications to the cancelled claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application. No claims are added by the foregoing amendment. Thus, claims 2, 5, 7, 10-13, and 15-24 are currently pending for the Examiner's consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 10-13, and 16. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended herein and rewritten as an independent claim containing all the recitations of previously presented independent claim 1. In addition, claims 10, 12, and 13 have each been amended herein and rewritten as independent claims containing all the recitations of previously presented independent claim 6. Claim 16 has also been amended herein and rewritten as an independent claim containing all the recitations of previously presented independent claim 14. Consequently,

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following entry of this amendment, claims 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 and their respective dependent claims should be in condition for immediate allowance based on the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in those claims.

Prior Art:

Claims 1, 6, 14, 17, and 21-22 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,927,277 to Baudino et al. ("Baudino"). Claims 2, 7, and 15 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Baudino, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the combined teachings of Baudino and U.S. Patent No. 6,413,263 to Lobdill et al. Claims 17-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Baudino alone. Finally, claim 23 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Baudino and U.S. Patent Publication 20050021104 to DiLorenzo. However, in order to expedite the issuance of this application, Applicant has herein cancelled independent claims 1, 6, and 14 and amended the remaining dependent claims to depend from claims with allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, thus rendering these rejections moot. The cancellation of claims 1, 6, and 14 is without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicant expressly reserves the right to file continuation applications to the cancelled claims or to any other subject matter disclosed in the present application.

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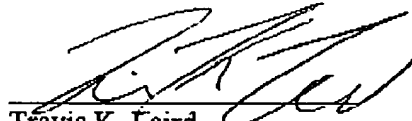
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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If any fees are owed in connection with this paper that have not been elsewhere authorized, authorization is hereby given to charge those fees to Deposit Account 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

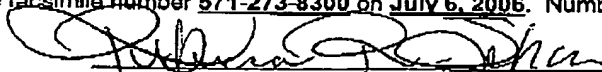
DATE: July 6, 2006


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on July 6, 2006. Number of Pages: 18


Rebecca R. Schow